Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 8, line 15, with the following rewritten paragraph:

--Referring to Figure 6, a typical optical system using Köhler illumination for imaging an object is a microscope 41 having an objective lens 42 with an objective lens aperture 43, and a condenser lens 44 having an aperture 46 which is conjugate to the objective lens aperture 43, and according to the definition used here, an objective aperture. Other objective apertures occur in the microscope at light sources 47 and 48, as well as at the eye-point 49 of phototube 50 and the eye-point 51 of eyepiece 55. Another objective aperture 52 is located in the optical system through relay lenses (not shown). As referred to herein, an "eye-point" is the location where a viewer's eye would be located to view the image of the object 53. Because an observer's eye has a focusing lens, the image is not in focus at the eye-point. The eye-point is one of the apertures conjugate to the objective aperture where the image is not in focus.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 13, line 12, with the following rewritten paragraph:

--A number of other mechanical and electro-mechanical devices are capable of creating a variable-size aperture in a dynamic mask, such as mask 144. Details of such other mask configurations are set forth in my copending application serial no. 09/715,636, for Method and Apparatus for Creating Real-Time 3-D Images and Constructing 3-D Models of an Object Imaged in an Optical System, filed November 17, 2000. In particular, instead of overlapping opaque semi-circular members 147 and 148, the space within ring 146 could contain overlapping blade structures, such as shown in Figs 21 and 21a, which can be adjusted to create a variable-size aperture 151. Referring to Figure 22, a bellow-type expandable opaque mask 150 can also create a variable-size aperture 151. Similarly, liquid crystal diodes (LCDs), such as sown in Figs 23a, 23b and 23c, can be used to create a variable light-passing aperture 151 within ring 146. Fig 23a illustrates a circle formed by eight equal sector-shaped LCDs 154, all conditioned to pass light. In Fig. 23B, two adjacent LCDs 154 have been conditioned to be opaque to light so that the remaining LCDs form a sector-shaped aperture that passes light. Fig. 23C illustrates the LCDs 154 conditioned such that only two adjacent sectors pass light to create an aperture 151 different in shape than that of Fig. 23b. The particular variable-shaped rotatable aperture mask 144 illustrated in Figs. 23A, 23b and 23c is but an example of the shaped that can be formed using LCDs. The advantage to using LCDs is that any shape can be achieved and quickly changed to any other shape, including shapes that would be difficult, if not impossible, to achieve with physical masks. In addition, the shapes and their transitions can be computer-created and controlled to create dynamic